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NURSERY NONSENSE

RHYMES WITHOUT REASON

ILLUSTRATED BY C.H. BENNETT

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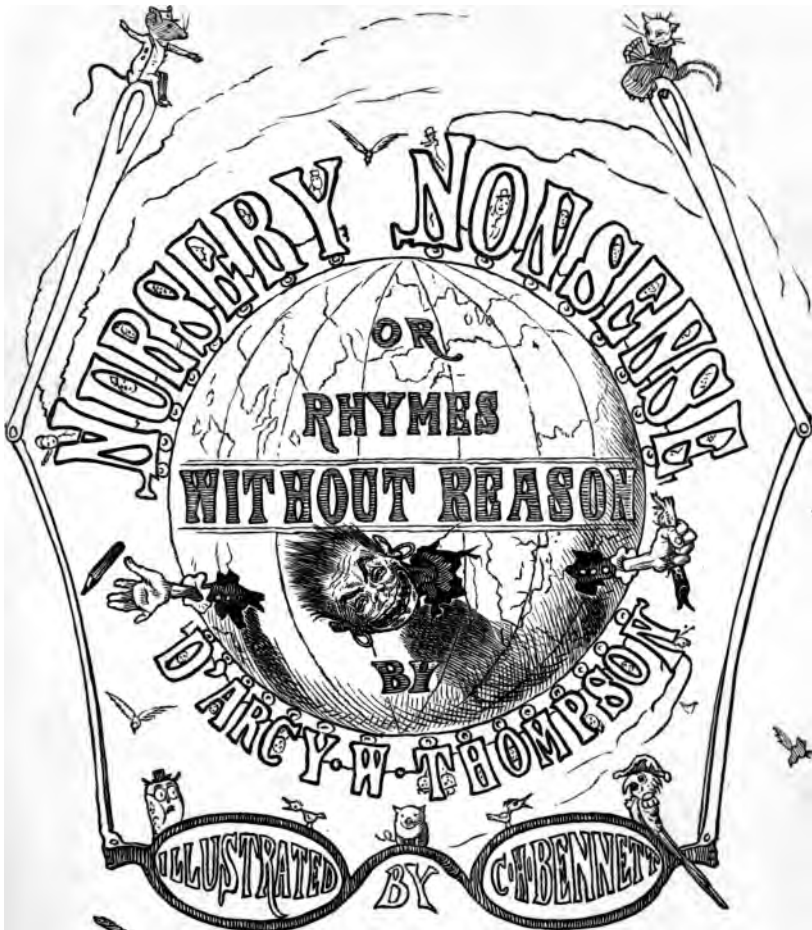

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DEDICATION.

MY Baby-boy, my own Dadû,
I dedicate this book to you:
It will have been well worth my while
To write it, if it make you smile:
And, if it make you crow and laugh,
I have of payment twice the half,
It *is* a silly book, 'tis true;
But Baby-boys are silly too.
Some other day, if all go well,
When Boy can read and write and spell,
Papa will write another one,
All earnest, not a word in fun.
Meanwhile; best love to Grandmama
And Aunty Pam; and now — Ta-ta.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Parley-voo	1
Poor Dear Grand-papa	2
The Little Piggy-wig	3
What a Stupid	5
That Dear Little Cat	6
Two Nice Dogs	7
Angry Jacko	9
Little Jack Tar	10
A Most Impertinent Bird	11
Serve Her Right	12
Poor Old Stupid	13
Very Poorly	15
Lost and Won	17
If	18
The Lazy Shepherd	19
Crazy Figures	21
The Silly Guinea-pig	22
The Foolish Sportsman	23
Tumbling Doggie	25
The Little Dreamer	26
The Funny Old Man and His Wife	27
Miss Given and Miss Fortune	29
A Stuff'd Bird	30
Foxey, Goose and Co.	31

PAGE

Mr. Spiderspinner 33
Two Old Wives 34
Cock-a-doodle-doo 35
The Three Beggars 37
Old Weatherwitch 39
The Fat Men Three 41
Mr. Everynoways 42
Dame Trottypeg 43
Oyez, Oyez, Oyez 45
Grandpapalittleboy 47
A Very Nice Pair 49
Sir Bunny Funny, of Warren-hall 51
Dr. Bray 53
John Chinaman 55

NURSERY NONSENSE.

PARLEY-VOO.

ONE morning a Weasel came swimming
All the way over from France,
And taught all the Weasels of England
To play on the fiddle and dance.

POOR DEAR GRAND-PAPA.

WHAT is the matter with Grand-papa?
"What can the matter be?"
"He's broken his leg in trying to spell
"Tommy without a T."

THE LITTLE PIGGY-WIG.

A LITTLE Piggy-wig once went to court,
To see the King and Queen:
But they said, "Little Pig, you can't come in,
Until your face is clean."

So they wheel'd him away in a wheel-barrow
To the middle of the Market-place,
And they pump'd and pump'd, till there was'nt a speck
Of dirt upon his face.

Then they wheel'd him back in the wheel-barrow,
Because his face was clean;
And he took off his hat and made his bow,
Before the King and Queen.

WHAT A STUPID.

SAYS Mr. Fox to Mr. Goose,
"Goosey, how d'ye do?"
Says Mr. Goose, "I've dipp'd my tail
"In a pot of glue."

THAT DEAR LITTLE CAT.

WHO'S that ringing at our door-bell?
"I'm a little black cat, and I'm not very well."
"Then rub your little nose with a little mutton-fat,
"And that's the best cure for a little pussy-cat."

TWO NICE DOGS.

TWO little Dogs went out for a walk,
And it was windy weather,
So for fear the wind should blow them away,
They tied their tails together.

They tied their tails with a yard of tape,
And the wind it blew and blew,
As sharp and keen as a carving-knife,
And cut the tape in two.

And away and away, like kites, in the air
Those two little Dogs flew about,
Till one little Dog was blown to bits,
And the other turned inside out.

ANGRY JACKO.

A POOR little Monkey one morning
Complained that the weather was hot,
So he ran up a tree in a terrible rage,
And tied his long tail in a knot.

LITTLE JACK TAR.

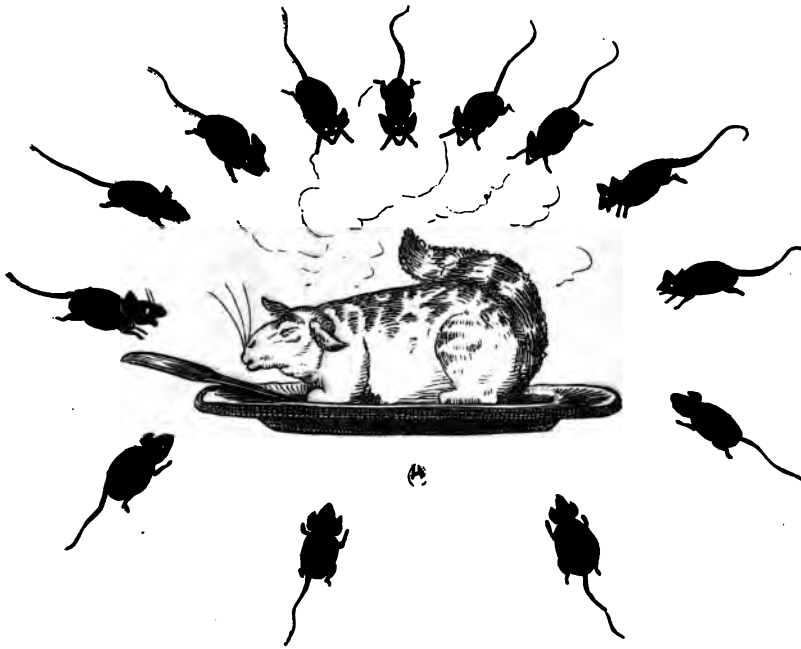
THERE was a little Dog, such a nice little Dog,
And he was such a funny little fellow;
He used his tail for a leg-of-mutton sail,
And his nose for an umbr-r-ella.

A MOST IMPERTINENT BIRD.

AN inquisitive little Sparrow
Ask'd every man in Wales,
Why Parrots had long noses,
And Foxes had long tails.

Some said, that Foxes used their tails
In winter for a muff;
And that Parrots' noses all were long,
Because they all took snuff.

But the reason, it seems to me,
As perhaps it will seem to you,
Is this, they once tried short ones,
But short ones wouldn't do.



SERVE HER RIGHT.

THERE was a little Cat, such a nice little Cat,
But she was such a horrid little glutton,
That they put her in the pot when the water grew hot,
And they boil'd her into mutton.

POOR OLD STUPID.

THERE lived an old man in a garret,
So afraid of a little tom-cat,
That he pulled himself up to the ceiling,
And hung himself up in his hat.

And for fear of the wind and the rain
He took his umbrella to bed—
I've half an idea, that silly old man
Was a little bit wrong in his head.

VERY POORLY.

TWO Cats sat on a garden-wall,
For an hour or so together;
And first they talked about nothing at all,
And then they talked of the weather.

The little Pussy-cat, afraid of the cold,
Had a wrapper to wrap her chin in;
But the big Pussy-cat, more silly than that,
Kept her tail in a bag of linen.

Said the little Pussy-cat to the big Pussy-cat,
"You've not very much to ail of;"
And so angry at that was the big Pussy-cat,
That she bit the little one's tail off.

LOST AND WON.

DEAR me, what a pickle I am in!
I've lost my pocket-handkerchief, and found
double chin:
O dear me! trouble's never done,
I've dropt all my h's and I can't find one.

IF.

HOW odd it would be if all the Cows
Were to run up all the trees,
And the Cats were to eat up all the Mice,
And the mice eat all the cheese.

THE LAZY SHEPHERD.

A SHEPHERD and his collie-dog
One day went fast to sleep,
And they told a great fat Poodle-thing
To mind the silly Sheep.

And he went to mind the silly Sheep;
But the Sheep would not mind him;
For they threw him into a water-trough,
To teach him how to swim.

And when the Man and Dog awoke,
Each other scarce they knew;
For the Shepherd's nose was painted black,
And the collie's tail sky-blue.

CRAZY FIGURES.

4 in 2 goes twice as fast
If 2 and 4 change places:
But how can 2 and 3 make four,
If 3 and 2 make faces.

THE SILLY GUINEA-PIG.

A SILLY little Guinea-pig
Sat up all the night,
Trying to bite a bit off his tail;
But he had no tail to bite.

And early the next morning
There came a chimney-sweep,
And rubb'd his brush in the Guinea-pig's face,
And sent him fast asleep.

THE FOOLISH SPORTSMAN.

A SILLY man went to the top of a hill,
One moonlight night in June;
And he loaded his gun with bullets of lead,
To shoot them at the moon.

But when he had got to the top of the hill,
To his surprise he found,
That the moon seem'd just as far away.
As it did from the ground.

And so angry was that poor silly man,
That he went clean out of his wits;
And he stuck up his hat, and shot at that,
Till he blew it all to bits.

And his treatment since by all his friends,
Has been most shockingly cruel;
For they keep the old soul in his own coal-hole,
And feed him on water-gruel.

TUMBLING DOGGIE.

THERE was a little Boy, and he had a little Dog;
And he taught that Dog to beg;
And that dear little Dog all dinner-time,
Would stand upon one leg.

One day to his master's great surprise,
That little Dog said, "Here goes,"
And he cock'd his hind-legs up in the air,
And stood upon his nose.

THE LITTLE DREAMER.

A LITTLE Boy was dreaming
Upon his Nurse's lap,
That the pins fell out of all the stars,
And the stars fell into his cap.

So when his dream was over,
What should that little Boy do?
Why, he went and look'd inside his cap,
And found it wasn't true.

THE FUNNY OLD MAN AND HIS WIFE.

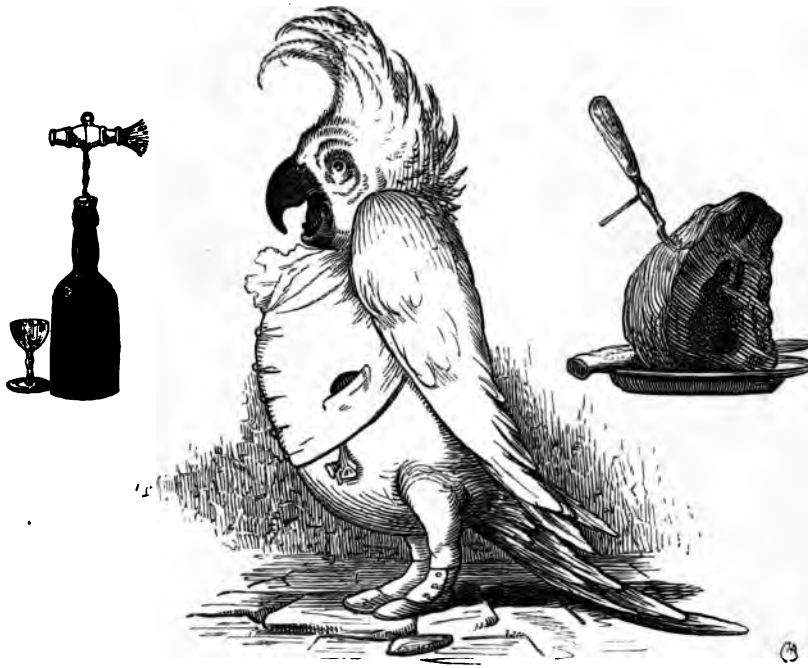
ONCE upon a time, in a little wee house,
Lived a funny old Man and his Wife;
And he said something funny to make her laugh,
Every day of his life.

One day he said such a very funny thing,
  That she shook and scream'd with laughter;
But the poor old soul, she couldn't leave off
  For at least three whole days after.

So, laughing with all her might and main,
  Three days and nights she sat;
And at the end she didn't know a bit
  What she'd been laughing at.

MISS GIVEN AND MISS FORTUNE.

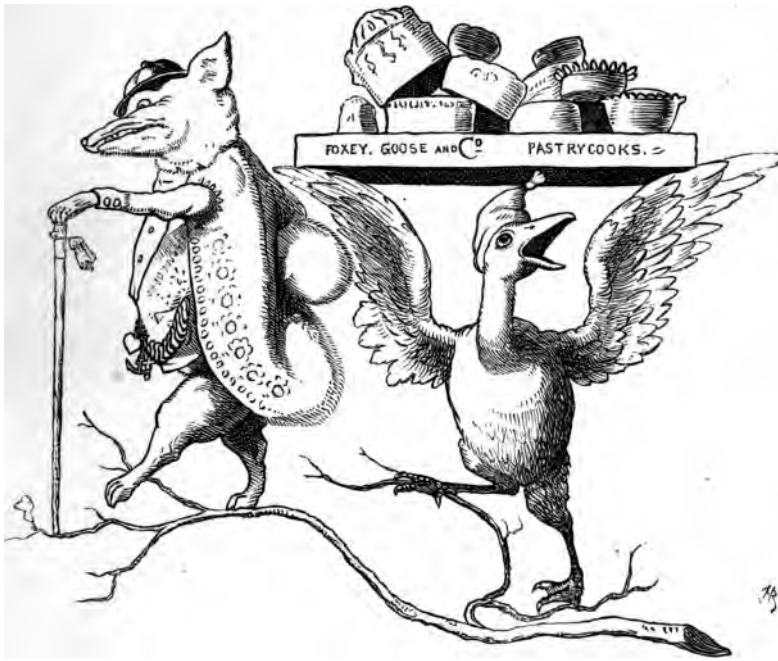
SAID Miss Given to Miss Fortune,
As they sat together at tea,
"I am sure I was never Miss Taken,
"For Miss Taken never was me."



A STUFF'D BIRD.

POOR old Cockeytoo: poor old Cockeytoo:
He 's ate so much, and drunk so much,
He don't know what to do.

Then take him by the tail;
But mind he doesn't bite,
And shake him well, until he finds
Another appetite.



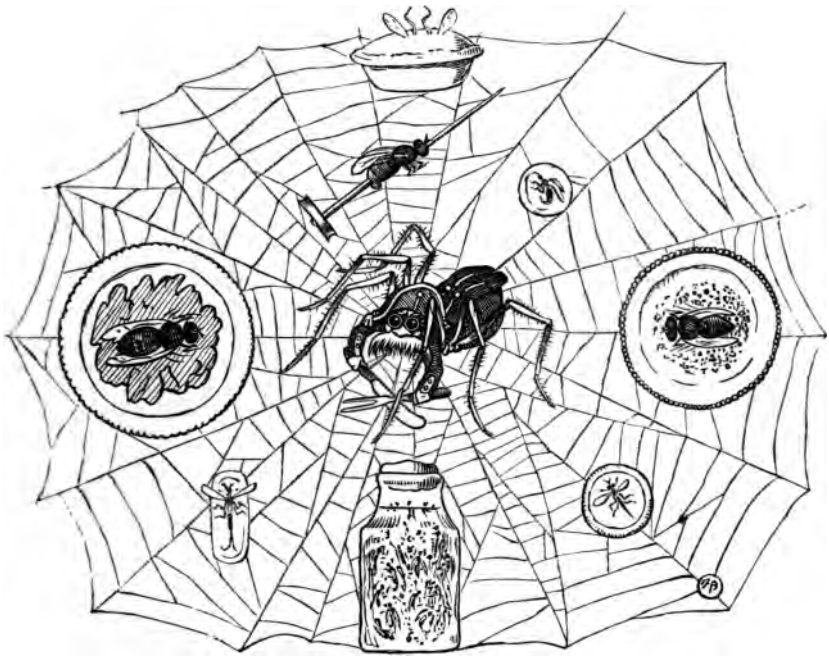
FOXEY, GOOSE AND CO.

IN town, not many years ago,
There was a pastry-shop,
Where every kind of cake was sold,
And tart and lolly-pop.

The cakes were in the window set;
They made a splendid show:
The name was painted on the door,
"Foxey, Goose & Co."

Goose behind the counter sold
  The cakes for ready cash;
While riding, driving in the park,
  Sir Foxey cut a dash.

But where he lived, or what he was like,
  Or what became of Co.,
Is what I never knew myself,
  What you will never know.



MR. SPIDERSPINNER.

OOD morning, Sir; how do you do,
"Old Mr. Spiderspinner?
"O tell me, please, and tell me true
"What you like best for dinner."

"Daddylonglegs when you please;
"Bluebottle roast on Sunday;
"Bluebottle cold, with greens and pease,
"And midge-pie hot on Monday."

TWO OLD WIVES.

TWO old Wives sat a-talking, a-talking, a-talking;
Two old Wives sat a-talking
About the wind and weather;
Till their two heads fell a-nodding, a-nodding,
a-nodding;
Their two heads fell a-nodding,
Their two old heads together.

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO.

A LITTLE Boy got out of bed,
'Twas only six o'clock;
And out of window poked his head,
And spied a crowing Cock.

The little Boy said, "Mr. Bird,
"Pray tell me, who are you?"
And all the answer that he heard
Was, "Cock-a-doodle-doo."

"What would you think, if you were me,"
He said, "and I were you?"
But still that Bird provokingly
Cried, "Cock-a-doodle-doo.".

"How many times, you stupid-head,
"Goes three in twenty-two?"
That old Bird wink'd one eye, and said,
Just "Cock-a-doodle-doo."

He slamm'd the window down again,
When up that old Bird flew;
And, pecking at the window-pane,
Cried, "Cock-a-doodle-doodle-doodle-doo!"

THE THREE BEGGARS.

THREE poor Beggar-men came to town,
And they begg'd all day from door to door;
But they did 'nt get a bite from morn to night,
So they said they would beg no more, no more.

Now, when first they came, they were blind and lame,
And they walk'd on wooden legs all that day;
But the rogues could see, as well as you or me,
When they *ran* away, away, away!

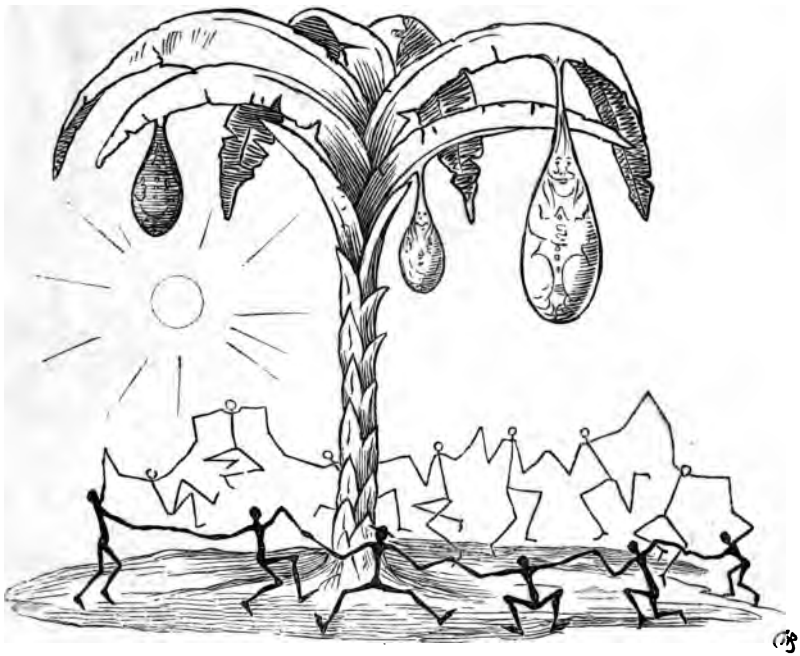
OLD WEATHERWITCH.

BLOW, Wind, blow;"
Three sailors sang together:
But "Nay, nay, nay;" they heard her say,
The old Witch of the weather.

So in their tiny boat
They sat, those sailors three;
Till the Wind should blow, they couldna go
A-sailing on the sea.

And for a night and day
  Those sailors whistled so,
That they made their boat to sail away,
  And made the Wind to blow.

Then "Yo, ho, ho!"
  So sang those sailors three;
"The good wind blows, the boatie goes
  "A-sailing on the sea!"



THE FAT MEN THREE.

SIXTEEN men climb'd up a tree,
And thirteen men got down;
And those three men, that were never seen again,
Were the fattest men in town.

For, when in the sky the Sun rose high,
And the south wind warm it blew,
Those fat men three on the top of the tree
Were melted down to glue.

MR. EVERYNOWAYS.

PRAY, which is the way to London-town?
"I must be there to-night."
"O walk a hundred miles, and turn
"To left, and then to right.

"Then straight as a line, and then zig-zag,
"Then up-hill and then down;
"Walk quick, and in six months you 'll be
"Not far from London-town."

DAME TROTTYPEG.

IN London-town Dame Trottypeg
Lived high up in a garret;
And with her lived a wee pet Dog,
A Tom-cat and a Parrot.

A cleverer or a funnier Dog
I'm sure you never saw;
For, like a sailor, he could dance
A hornpipe on one paw.

And all the while the Doggie danced,
  That Pussy-cat was able
Just like a flute to play his tail
  Upon the kitchen table.

But what a tongue, and O what brains
  Were in that Parrot's head!
It took two men to understand
  One-half the things he said.

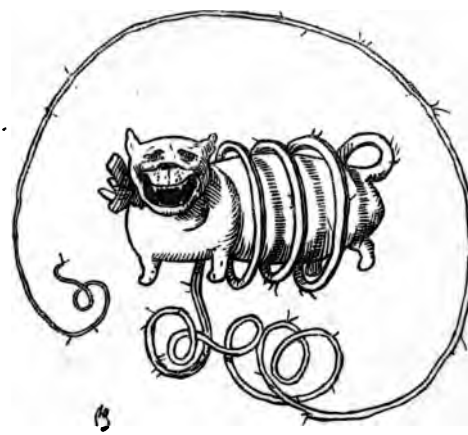
OYEZ, OYEZ, OYEZ.

GO, crier, go, with trumpet blow
This message thro' the land;
And speak it loud, that all the crowd
Of dogs may understand.

The new Lord Mayor, he does declare,
In three weeks, without fail,
That you shall swing, unless you bring
The dog with the curliest tail.

And be he white, or black, or brown,
  And be he fat or skinny;
Just bring that dog to London-town,
  And take your golden guinea.

And when he's found, that lucky hound,
  Here, there, or anywhere;
With me shall he go to the Lord Mayor's Show,
  And dine with the new Lord Mayor.



GRANDPAPALITTLEBOY.

LAST night, when I was in my bed,
Such fun it seem'd to me;
I dreamt that I was Grandpapa,
And Grandpapa was me.

I thought I wore a powder'd wig,
Drab shorts, and gaiters buff;
And took without a single sneeze
A double pinch of snuff.

But he was such a tiny boy,
  And dress'd in baby-clothes;
And I thought I smack'd his face, because
  He would 'nt blow his nose.

And I went walking up the street,
  And he ran by my side;
But, because I walk'd too quick for him,
  My goodneſs, how he cried!

And after tea I wash'd his face,
  And, when his prayers were said,
I blew the candle out, and left
  Poor Grandpapa in bed.

A VERY NICE PAIR.

TWO Magpies sat on a garden rail,
As it might be Wednesday week;
And one little Magpie wagg'd his tail
In the other little Magpie's beak.

And, doubling like a fist his little claw-hand,
Said this other, "Upon my word,
"This is more than flesh and blood can stand
"Of Magpie or any other bird."

So they peck'd and they scratch'd each other's little eyes,
Till all that was left on the rail
Was the beak of one of the little Magpies,
And the other little Magpie's tail.

SIR BUNNY FUNNY OF WARREN-HALL.

SIR BUNNY is a splendid shot,
And every time he fires,
A farmer or a keeper falls,
Sometimes a brace of squires.

He went out shooting yesterday
With young Lord Leveret;
But the wind it blew, and the rain it pour'd,
And both got soaking wet.

Sir Bunny has been for many a year
  A sportsman keen and bold;
But he 's not as young as once he was,
  And he 's caught a shocking cold.

Then bring hot water in a pan,
  To bathe Sir Bunny's feet;
And mix his gruel, thin and warm,
  With wine, to make it sweet.

That miawling Cat and yelping Dog,
  And that horrid, screeching Parrot—
Do take them away, and lock them up,
  Down stairs or in the garret.

For fear Sir Bunny be disturb'd,
  Don't make the slightest noise;
Tomorrow, perhaps, he may walk on the lawn,
  And shoot at farmer-boys.

DR. BRAY.

WAS in a village far from town
A Donkey open'd school;
His stock-in-trade a cap and gown,
A desk, and three-legg'd stool.

And Puppies came, dress'd out full fig,
With little Kitten-cousins;
Came Chicken, Duckling, Piggy-wig,
And little Geese by dozens.

The Ducklings came to learn to swim;
  The Kittens to say *Miaw*;
The Piggies, how to keep neat and trim;
  The Puppies to say *Bow-wow*.

The Chicks, by picking crumbs were meant
  To fatten day by day;
And Gander-fats their Goslings sent,
  To get them out of the way.

But O how disappointed each
  Fond parent, when he saw,
That all the Donkey had to teach
  Was how to say *Hee-haw*.

For "I open school," said Dr. Bray,
  "For children of all classes;
"They 've just to mind what I 've to say,
  "To grow up little asses."

JOHN CHINAMAN.

AS I was out a-walking,
I pass'd a village green,
And saw a Chinaman that sang,
And play'd the tambourine.

I stopp'd, and tried to understand
The curious words he sang;
But the chorus of his song to me
Seem'd, "Chingaree, chang, wang, bang."

I call'd the man, and said, "Good Sir,
"I cannot speak Chinese;
"Your words are heathen-Greek to me;
"Explain them, if you please."

He smiled, the Chinaman, and said,
"Pi, chee, kee, wing, wang, fo:"
I felt as though I were a goose,
And he were saying *Bo*.

I said, "Go home, good Chinaman;
"Go home, and tell your mother
"I don't believe you Chinamen
"Can understand each other."

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